

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/214,306, filed 20 July 1999, now pending, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to PCT/NL97/00374, filed 1 July 1997, which designates the U.S. and which claims priority to European Application 96/201821.4, filed 1 July 1996, and to U.S. Provisional Application 60/131,671, filed 22 November 1996.--;

on page 1, directly above line 1, insert --[Technical Field--]; 

on page 1, line 4, insert --[Background Art--]; 

on page 5, line 4, insert --[Disclosure of the Invention--]; 

on page 6, line 3, insert:

--Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 illustrates the influence of the spacer on the swelling ratio of dextran hydrogels.

Figure 2 illustrates the influence of the DS on the swelling ratio of dex-lactate-HEMA hydrogels.

Figure 3 illustrates the influence of the initial water content of dex-lactate HEMA hydrogels on the swelling ratio.

Figure 4 illustrates the swelling behavior of dex-SA-HEMA hydrogels.

Figure 5 illustrates the release of IgG from degrading hydrogels (dex-lactate-HEMA, DS 2.5).--; and

on page 6, line 4, insert --[Detailed Description of Invention--]; 